



**STUDENT  
VOICE**

# NEWSLETTER

High Expectations, High Achievement & Learning for Life

## Welcome

Hello and welcome to another edition of Student Voice newsletter. In our second edition we will be talking about students escape rooms and an interview with astrophysicist Dr Becky. Student Voice members will be conducting consultation session in form time to gain opinions and thoughts from students. The school is also launching a new parent app called SIMS, so parents/carers can stay up to date with their child's learning.

BEN THERON  
Assistant Editor

## Escape Room STEM Challenge

On the 15th of January, a group of year 9 students took part in an escape room type challenge. We were split into groups of 6-8 people. We solved a number of puzzles and challenges, had to find keys, open briefcases and locks. We had 45 minutes to escape which improved our ability to work timed situations under pressure. This taught us to communicate and work as a team. We can use these skills in other lessons and in life.

Thank you to the Science department and Wiseminds Escape Rooms who organised this event.

"I had an amazing time considering how challenging the tasks where. I had to use a lot of maths skills." *Year 9 student*

*Keira Hughes and Kenza Jerbi*



**Week 16 18/01/19**

**3** Key Features of the Student Voice Group

1. Determined
2. Enthusiastic
3. Empathetic

## Term Dates

School Closes: Friday 15th  
February 2019

School Opens: Monday 25th  
February 2019

## House Points Board

|                                                                                       |          |       |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------|-------|
|  | Delphi   | 49349 |
|  | Olympia  | 43650 |
|  | Hellenic | 49200 |
|  | Corinth  | 44538 |

# Student Profile: Amy Rollinson



What inspired you to become a diver?

I remember watching the professional divers in the Olympics on TV. I wanted to give it a try, so I went down to the new local pool. I've now been diving for nearly six years, since I was nine.

How much have you learnt during your diving experiences?

I've learnt lots of new and different techniques and now I can do much harder and more complicated dives compared to when I started out, thanks to all the help I've received. I was lucky enough to be taught by some of the best coaches in the country and this has helped me become the diver I am today.

What would you most like to achieve in the world of diving?

I would love to become a professional diver one day, and my ultimate dream is to represent my country at the Olympic Games.

Would you encourage other people to start diving?

Totally! It's a really fun and enjoyable sport, it keeps you fit and you are given the opportunities you need to acquire a large skill-set. Also, it has helped me make lots of new friends from all over the country.

*Interview by Charlotte Lovelock and Crystal Smith*

## Introducing the head prefects

These are the head prefects; they have several responsibilities and represent the school. In this section we will be interviewing one head prefect every issue in our newsletter.

*Charlotte Lovelock*



## Website Quick Links:

[Extra-curricular](#)

[Revision page](#)

[Calendar](#)

[Letters to parents](#)

[Careers](#)

## Weekly House Attendance Position



Corinth

1<sup>st</sup>



Hellenic

2<sup>nd</sup>



Delphi

3<sup>rd</sup>



Olympia

4<sup>th</sup>

# Head Prefect Interview

With Ceri Brookman



Why did you become a prefect?

I would really love to become a lawyer when I leave school and I take every opportunity to collect experiences to draw on.

What are your interests outside of school?

I am an avid artist and love to draw in my free time. I also love catching up with my friends.

What options did you choose and why?

I chose Ethics, History and Sociology. This is going back to my ambition to becoming a lawyer; I did some research and these were the subjects required to fulfil my dream.

What is your favourite lesson?

I enjoy most of my lessons, but my favourite has to be English. I find it really interesting and I learn a lot.

What is the most important thing you have to do as a prefect?

You have to lead by example for all years and help to represent the school well.

*Interview by Charlotte Lovelock and Ben Theron*

## Dr Becky Interview

What is the most exciting day for you in your job?

The most exciting days are the days you get to talk about new results with other scientists. Usually this is at conferences around the world - I've got to go to Mexico, Hawaii and Australia to do just that!

You talk about how large black holes can be, how small can they get?

The answer to this depends if you're talking about mass or size. The smallest size black hole we've ever found is only 24 km (~15 miles) across but it weighs in at 4 times the mass of the Sun! In terms of the smallest by mass, there's technically no limit, you just have to put enough matter in a small enough space so that the gravity is so strong light can't escape. In fact, people have even hypothesised that you could get micro-black holes (or quantum-black holes) in the early Universe.



Dr Becky on top of a mountain in La Palma

What kind of experience would someone need to do your role?

To become a research scientist, you need to go to university and get a 4 year Masters degree and then do research for 3-4 years towards a PhD thesis (i.e. become a doctor, but not a medical doctor, like Ross in Friends!).

What challenges do female scientists face, if any?

I personally have never had any negative experiences as a woman in science. However, the usual social barriers that women face every day unfortunately still exist in science.

In your opinion what is the biggest question that science hasn't answered?

The problem of dark matter and dark energy. We still don't know what they are or what they're made of, yet together they make up 95% of the total mass of the Universe.

If you could invite 3 people to a dinner party, who would it be?

I would have the eclectic mix of Marie Curie, Taylor Swift and Brian May.

Who inspired you to be an astrophysicist and what are your thoughts about Brian Cox?  
I think by asking questions that my parents didn't know the answers to, I inspired myself to become an astrophysicist. So that I could not only know those answers but also find the answers to questions that no one had thought to ask yet. I think Brian is great. He presents science at a level that's perfect for a BBC family audience in an engaging way. He's inspired countless numbers of people across the world, which will echo throughout the next few generations.

Do you wish to see more astronomy in the science curriculum?

YES. I thought physics was boring in Year 9 - forces, light travels in straight lines etc. But by the time I got to my GCSEs and we started studying astronomy, nuclear fusion and radioactivity I found that I loved it. Astronomy really captures people's interest in physics and encourages kids to think about the world beyond what they see everyday. I think it's important to get kids to start thinking about our place in the Universe from an early age.

And finally, what is your star sign, lol?

I'm a Taurus because I'm born in mid-May. Star signs refer to the constellation which the Sun was in on the day you were born. Thing is, the dates of the "star signs" were fixed 2,000 years ago and now they're pretty inaccurate for people born these days, because the Earth has wobbled a bit since then. So I'm actually only just a Taurus. You can check what your star sign actually is here (not that it really means anything): <http://www.bbc.co.uk/guides/zp4fvcw>

To further explore the fascinating field of astronomy, follow Dr Becky on Twitter and subscribe to her channel on Youtube

Twitter: [@drbecky](https://twitter.com/drbecky) Youtube: [youtube.com/drbecky](https://youtube.com/drbecky)

## SIMS Parent App

For all the parents out there, there's a cool new app. Here are its features

### What will you find in the SIMS Parent app?

- Important information such as attendance, behaviour, and achievement
- Term, inset dates and contact details available at the click of a button
- Access your child's report
- Receive notifications to remind you about important information such as key dates for your diary,
- Access to update your contact details, so we always have the most up-to-date information in case of emergency.
- If you have more than one child at the college, you'll have access to information for all your children from the same app.

Simply visit the App or Play Store and download SIMS Parent to get started.  
Or login online at [www.sims-parent.co.uk](http://www.sims-parent.co.uk)  
Ask your school for more information.



CAPITA | SIMS helping schools inspire



\*Year 7 parents have already been sent a text message inviting parents to register. Text message invitations will be sent on the following dates:

Year 8 - 22<sup>nd</sup> January | Year 10 - 24<sup>th</sup> January | Year 9 - 29<sup>th</sup> January

## Upcoming Events

|          |                           |                             |
|----------|---------------------------|-----------------------------|
| Tuesday  | 5 <sup>th</sup> February  | Year 9 Art Enrichment Day   |
| Thursday | 14 <sup>th</sup> February | GCSE Photography & Art Trip |

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